

IN THE CLAIMS:

Please cancel Claim 5 without prejudice or disclaimer of subject matter and amend the claims as shown below. The claims, as pending in the subject application, read as follows:

1. (Currently Amended) A method of managing a communication network comprising a sub-network having communication nodes interconnected by links conveying digital signals, and a plurality of hosts, said hosts being able to exchange data via the sub-network, said communication nodes comprising data and ~~wherein, in order to actuate, from a first node, any host based on operating commands transmitted by a control interfaces attached to a second node to which said host is connected~~ for exchanging data and operating commands with hosts to which they are connected, the method comprises comprising the steps of:

transmitting a search signal from a first communication node to a second communication node of the sub-network, said search signal containing information representing technical features of a host to be actuated from said first communication node, the transmission being performed in accordance with instructions from a remote control in a direction of the nodes in the network including the first node;

identifying a candidate host, ~~which may be the host to be actuated on the basis of compatibility between the~~ that is connected to said second communication node and that has technical features of this candidate host and compatible with the technical features ~~indicated~~ contained in the search signal; and

starting ~~this host~~ up said candidate host by means of ~~[[a]]~~ the control interface ~~attached to~~ of the second communication node to which ~~said the~~ candidate host is connected,

wherein, based on the result of the starting up, if ~~this~~ said candidate host proves not to be the host to be actuated, a search signal is transmitted once again in order to continue the search, whereas, if ~~this~~ said host does prove to be the host to be actuated, operating commands are sent to it by means of said control interface, which also interrupts the search.

2. (Currently Amended) The method according to claim 1, wherein ~~said network comprises at least one host~~ if the data interface of the candidate host is adapted to exchange analogue data signals by means of a data interface and to be controlled by means of a control interface then the compatibility of the~~[[,]]~~ ~~wherein technical features to control this at least one host are obtained by analyzing~~ contained in the search signal is determined with regard to the technical features of said data interface.

3. (Currently Amended) The method according to claim 1, wherein~~[[,]]~~ the steps of transmitting, identifying and starting up are repeated until the identification of two hosts that do prove to be the hosts to be actuated, in order to put said two hosts ~~[[in]]~~ into communication, ~~the method is implemented for at least one of said two hosts.~~

4. (Currently Amended) The method according to claim 3, wherein ~~said the~~ two hosts put into communication are connected to the same communication node ~~in said~~ sub-network.

5. (Canceled)

6. (Previously Presented) A communication node that forms part of a communication network comprising a sub-network having communication nodes interconnected by links conveying digital signals, and a plurality of hosts able to exchange data via the sub-network, said node comprising:

at least one data interface for connection to a host to exchange signals;

at least one control interface to transmit operating commands to the host;

and

a unit for supplying signals representing these operating commands received from other nodes to said control interface, wherein said unit supplies the signals based on the data interface connected to the host.

7. (Previously Presented) A communication node that forms part of a communication network comprising a sub-network having communication nodes interconnected by links conveying digital signals, and a plurality of hosts to exchange data via the sub-network, said node comprising:

at least one receiver to receive operating commands intended for any host in the network; and

a unit to produce signals representing these operating commands and being transmitted to other nodes, wherein said unit produces the signals based on a technical feature of the host.

8. (Currently Amended) A data processing apparatus, comprising a communication node according to ~~either claim 6 or claim 7~~.

9. (Currently Amended) A communication network, comprising at least one communication node according to ~~either claim 6 or claim 7~~.

10. (Previously Presented) The communication network according to claim 9, wherein said data represent audio-visual information.

11. (Currently Amended) A data storage means, which can be read by a computer or a microprocessor, storing instructions of a computer program, wherein the program implements the method according to ~~any one of claim[[s]] 1, 2 or 5~~.

12. (Currently Amended) A data storage means which is removable, ~~partially or totally~~, and which can be read by a computer and/or a microprocessor storing instructions of a computer program, wherein the program implements the method according to ~~any one of claim[[s]] 1, 2 or 5~~.

13. (Previously Presented) A communication node that forms part of a communication network comprising a sub-network consisting of communication nodes interconnected by links conveying signals, and a plurality of hosts being able to exchange data via the sub-network, said node comprising:

means for comparing technical features indicated in a received search signal with technical features of a host to which said node is connected; and

a control interface that starts up and operates said host based on a comparison result by the comparing means.

14. (Currently Amended) The Communication communication node according to Claim 13, further comprising:

at least one data interface for connecting a host to exchange analog signals and to receive operation commands from said control interface; and

a unit for supplying said control interface with received signals which represent these operating commands.

15. (Previously Presented) A communication node that forms part of a communication network comprising a sub-network consisting of communication nodes interconnected by links conveying digital signals, and a plurality of hosts to exchange data via the sub-network, said node comprising:

means for transmitting to all nodes in the network a search signal containing information representing technical features of a host to be actuated; and

means for sending operating commands to said host to be actuated.

16. (Currently Amended) The Communication communication node according to Claim 15, further comprising:

at least one receiver to receive operating commands intended for said host to be actuated; and

a unit to produce signals representing the operating commands.

17. (Previously Presented) A communication apparatus comprising:
a wireless communication means for wirelessly communicating with another wireless communication apparatus;
a wired communication means for communicating with another apparatus;
receiving means for receiving, by said wireless communication means, instruction signals for instructing to search for an apparatus possessing a predetermined technical feature; and
searching means for searching, by said wired communication means, the apparatus possessing the predetermined technical features based on the received instruction signal.

18. (Previously Presented) The communication apparatus according to Claim 17, further comprising controlling means for controlling the apparatus searched by said searching means.

19. (Previously Presented) The communication apparatus according to Claim 17, wherein said controlling means operates the searched apparatus by an operating command.

20. (Previously Presented) A method for searching for an apparatus possessing a predetermined technical feature by a communication apparatus, comprising:
a wireless receiving step of wirelessly receiving an instruction signal for instructing to search for an apparatus possessing the predetermined technical feature; and

a searching step of searching for the apparatus possessing the predetermined technical feature based on the received instruction signal.